



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana*

*10 West Market Street
Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

*(317)226-6333
TDD (317)226-5438*

September 30, 2004

*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317)226-6125
Administration (317)226-5176
Civil (317)226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317)226-5953*

CONTACT PERSON:

SUSAN W. BROOKS

United States Attorney

(317) 226-6333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EVANSVILLE MAN SENTENCED FOR TRANSPORTING STOLEN CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JOSEPH R. MOTT, 35, of Evansville, Indiana, was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his guilty plea to nine counts of interstate transportation of stolen vehicles. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department.

MOTT pleaded guilty to the charges in court on July 12, 2004. According to facts presented in court during the guilty plea, MOTT was stopped for a traffic violation by an Illinois State Trooper on April 2, 2003. MOTT was driving a truck that was pulling a trailer containing a John Deere tractor. The trooper issued Mott a warning ticket for speeding. During

-more-

Mott - 2

the stop, the trooper noted the serial number on the tractor. A subsequent check revealed that the tractor had been stolen from a construction site in Warrick County that day. On May 29, 2003, an FBI Agent interviewed MOTT.

In the interview, MOTT admitted that he had been involved in the transportation of stolen construction vehicles and 4-wheelers between Indiana and Illinois beginning as much as five years before. MOTT confirmed that he stole the John Deere tractor that he had in his possession on April 2, 2003 from a construction site in a Newburgh, Indiana, subdivision. MOTT stated that a co-worker assisted him in the theft. MOTT voluntarily returned the stolen John Deere tractor from Illinois to the Warrick County Sheriff's Department. MOTT described the majority of his unlawful activity as moving stolen construction vehicles from Illinois to Indiana. The typical pattern of movement involved MOTT traveling to Illinois, loading a construction vehicle on his truck and trailer, and moving the vehicle back to the Evansville area. After returning the vehicles to Evansville, MOTT sold the vehicles himself, or enlisted the help of co-defendant John H. Woodall to find buyers for the equipment among the construction sub-contractors that Woodall knew in the Evansville area. A total of nine stolen vehicles were recovered by Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department during the investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed two years supervised release following MOTT's release from imprisonment. MOTT was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$73,041.

###